

Lafayette, LA Relocation Guide

2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Mandi D. Mitchell
President and CEO

Consisting of approximately 249,000 people, **Lafayette, LA** serves as an economic center in south Louisiana. *Southern Business and Development* named Lafayette a Top 10 place in the South for the creative class citing Lafayette's risk-taking spirit and technological advantages. *Area Development's* "100 Leading Locations" named Lafayette one of the best cities in the nation for economic and job growth. With a well-trained workforce, unmatched quality of life, and a favorable environment for our business community, Lafayette is a place like no other.

Location

The intersection of Interstates 10 and 49, coupled with air service via Lafayette Regional Airport, serves as a strategic advantage in transportation and accessibility in and out of the parish.

Living

Lafayette serves as a hospitable, safe and family-friendly center for retail, education, services and health care. Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) provides the City of Lafayette and some surrounding areas with electric, water, and wastewater services that are among the lowest priced in the state. LUS Fiber, the telecommunications division of LUS, provides some of the fastest internet in the world to customers with speeds up to 10 Gbps.

Working

Lafayette's diverse business base promotes a stable economy that encourages additional development and investment. Business opportunities and employment advantages extend through the fields of construction, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation and distribution, energy, retail trade, finance, and information technology.

Playing

The region's legendary *joie de vivre* and Cajun and Creole culture are known around the globe, creating a unique environment for work and play. Local museums, community events, and festivals provide modern-day arts and culture with a southern flair. The subtropical climate of the "Sportsman's Paradise" is enjoyable in nearly 40 parks and recreational facilities around Lafayette Parish.

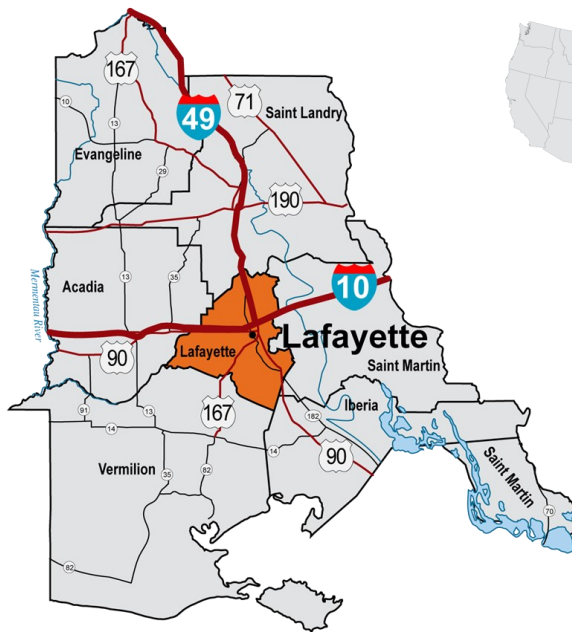
Lafayette Economic Development Authority
211 East Devalcourt Street
Lafayette, LA 70506
337.593.1400 | www.lafayette.org

LOCATION



Where is Lafayette, Louisiana?

There are many reasons Lafayette is known as the Hub City of southern Louisiana. Not only is Lafayette strategically located at the crossroads of Interstates 10 and 49, the Parish (County) has established itself as the regional leader in manufacturing, retail, medical services, technology, education, and entrepreneurial activity.



Miles to:

Atlanta, GA	592
Baton Rouge, LA	52
Biloxi, MS	199
Birmingham, AL	423
Dallas, TX	402
Houston, TX	222
Jackson, MS	236
Jacksonville, FL	662
Memphis, TN	449
Mobile, AL	252
New Orleans, LA	129
Oklahoma City, OK	621
San Antonio, TX	396
Tulsa, OK	648

Air Service

Lafayette Regional Airport (www.lftairport.com)

- Three runways—the longest is 8,001 feet
- Total 2023 Enplanements and Deplanements were 465,530
- Serviced by: American, Delta and United
- Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans (120 miles east)



Demographics Lafayette Parish Population

Town/Municipality	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023	2028
Lafayette City	81,961	94,421	110,257	120,623	121,374	123,274	125,810
Broussard	3,712	5,518	6,120	7,526	13,417	13,667	13,938
Carencro	2,923	3,213	5,874	8,197	9,272	9,882	10,241
Duson	1,253	1,465	1,672	1,716	1,326	1,435	1,404
Scott	2,239	4,912	7,870	8,614	8,119	8,482	8,640
Youngsville	1,053	1,195	2,617	8,105	15,982	17,331	18,384
Unincorporated	56,876	54,038	56,093	66,797	72,263	75,329	78,101
Parish Total	150,017	164,762	190,503	221,578	241,753	249,400	256,518

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 Bureau of the Census; 2023 & 2028 Projections, ESRI

Lafayette Market Area Projected Population Growth

There are nine parishes that comprise the Lafayette Market area.

Parish	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023	2028
Acadia	56,427	55,882	58,861	61,773	57,576	56,571	55,458
Evangeline	33,343	33,274	35,434	33,384	32,350	31,812	31,226
Iberia	63,752	68,297	73,266	73,240	69,929	68,576	67,004
Jefferson Davis	32,168	30,722	31,435	31,594	32,250	32,566	32,718
Lafayette	150,017	164,762	190,503	221,578	241,753	249,400	256,518
St. Landry	84,128	80,312	87,700	83,384	82,540	82,289	81,956
St. Martin	40,214	44,097	48,583	52,160	51,767	51,756	51,723
St. Mary	64,253	58,086	53,500	54,650	49,406	47,800	45,915
Vermilion	48,458	50,055	53,807	57,999	57,359	57,078	56,760
Total	572,760	585,487	633,089	669,762	674,930	677,848	679,278

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020 Bureau of the Census; 2023 & 2028 Projections, ESRI

Residential Living

Whether you enjoy fast-paced urban living or a quieter country setting, Lafayette is a great place to live.

- There are approximately 147 apartment complexes in Lafayette Parish made up of studio, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units in all price ranges.
- Traditional planned neighborhood developments like *River Ranch*, *Sugarmill Pond*, and *Couret Farms* are examples of communities with built-in amenities to service residents.
- Developments can be found along the Vermilion River, near the university, and all parish municipalities providing a suitable location for any size or type of family.

LIVING



Utilities

Publicly owned and operated, Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) provides the City of Lafayette and some surrounding areas with electric, water, and wastewater services that are among the lowest priced in the state. Other private companies provide electrical power, natural gas, and waste disposal to municipalities in Lafayette Parish. LUS Fiber, the telecommunications division of Lafayette Utilities System, provides some of the fastest internet in the world to customers with speeds up to 10 Gbps.

Municipality	Phone	Web Address
Lafayette Utilities System (LUS)	(337) 291-8280	www.lus.org
City of Broussard	(337) 837-6681	www.broussardla.com
City of Carencro	(337) 896-8481	www.carencro.org
Town of Duson	(337) 873-6754	www.townofduson.com
City of Scott	(337) 233-1130	www.cityofscott.org
City of Youngsville	(337) 856-4181	www.youngsville.us

In addition to those provided by local municipalities, services are also available from the following suppliers:

Utility	Provider	Web Address
Electricity	LUS	www.lus.org
	Entergy	www.energy-louisiana.com
	SLEMCO	www.slemco.com
Natural Gas	CenterPoint Energy Entex	www.centerpointenergy.com
	Atmos Energy Louisiana	www.atmosenergy.com
Solid Waste Disposal	Republic Services	www.republicservices.com
	Waste Management	www.wm.com
Water and Wastewater	LUS	www.lus.org
Fiber Optics/Internet	LUS Fiber	www.lusfiber.com
	AT&T	www.att.com
	Cox Communications	www.cox.com
Cable TV	LUS Fiber	www.lusfiber.com
	AT&T Uverse	www.att.com/u-verse-tv
	Cox Communications	www.cox.com



Taxes

Property Tax

- No state property tax in Louisiana.
- 2024 Lafayette City and Parish property tax millage is 104.60 mills.
- For property outside of the city limits of Lafayette, the total millage is 86.41.
- Several types of exemptions are available in Lafayette Parish. If you own property that you reside in, you may apply for homestead exemption which reduces the taxable value of your home by \$75,000, resulting in substantial savings on your property taxes.

Sales Tax

- Sales tax is levied on the retail sale of personal property, goods used or stored for use in Louisiana and on leases and rentals of tangible personal property and certain services.
- Louisiana state sales tax is 4.45%.
- Lafayette Parish sales tax is 2.0%
- Municipal sales tax:
 - City of Lafayette and areas outside all city limits: 2.0%
 - City of Broussard: 2.5%
 - City of Scott: 3.0%
 - City of Carencro and Town of Duson: 3.0%
 - City of Youngsville : 3.5%
- There are special taxing districts and economic development districts in the parish that levy additional taxes for infrastructure improvements. A list of those can be found at www.lataonline.org.

Government and Services

- Lafayette City/Parish is governed by an elected Mayor-President, a five-person City Council, and a five-person Parish Council.
- Area municipalities are governed by an elected Mayor and Council

Location	FT Police	Reserve	FT Firemen	Volunteer	Fire Insur.
Lafayette	266	—	263	—	2
Broussard	33	2	1	23	3
Carencro	34	3	9	18	3
Duson	8	—	—	3	3
Scott	32	3	3	22	3
Youngsville	32	11	18	0	3
Sheriff	393	25	—	—	—

Source: Lafayette, Broussard, Carencro, Duson, Scott, and Youngsville Police & Fire Departments, and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department—Duson Volunteer Firemen, Duson Fire Insurance Rating, Full-time and Reserve Sheriff's numbers

LIVING



Health Care

Lafayette is the medical hub for area parishes and home to the following hospitals:

Facility	Beds	Facility	Beds
AMG Specialty Hospital—Lafayette	18	Lafayette Extended Care Hospital	68
Our Lady of Lourdes Heart Hospital	32	Optima Specialty Hospital	24
Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center	432	Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center	379
Ochsner Lafayette General Surgical Hospital	10	Park Place Surgical Hospital	10
Lafayette Physical Rehabilitation Hospital	32	Ochsner University Hospital and Clinics	52
Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital	20	Our Lady of Lourdes Women's and Children's Hospital	161

- Twenty-eight nursing homes are located in Lafayette with more than 3,000 beds.
- There are more than 500 physicians in Lafayette and more than 800 in Acadiana (a nine parish area) covering more than 33 specialties.
- There are over 160 dentists in Lafayette and Acadiana including general dentistry, Endodontists, Orthodontists, Oral Surgeons, Pediatric Dentists and Periodontists.

LIVING



Cost of Living

The Council for Community and Economic Research, a non-profit organization promoting excellence in research for community and economic development, developed the *Cost of Living Index* to provide a useful and reasonably accurate measure of living cost differences among urban areas. The Index measures differences in the cost of consumer goods and services for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile.

The Index average is equal to 100 and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average. For example: Lafayette's composite index is 86.6— 13.4% below the national average. These percentages are based on the cost of 50+ items.

How would the *Cost of Living Index* be useful to you?

Suppose you live in Houston, TX, which has a composite index of 98.2 and you are thinking about accepting a new job in Lafayette, LA, which has a composite index of 97.9. How much of an increase or decrease in your after-taxes income will you need to maintain your present lifestyle?

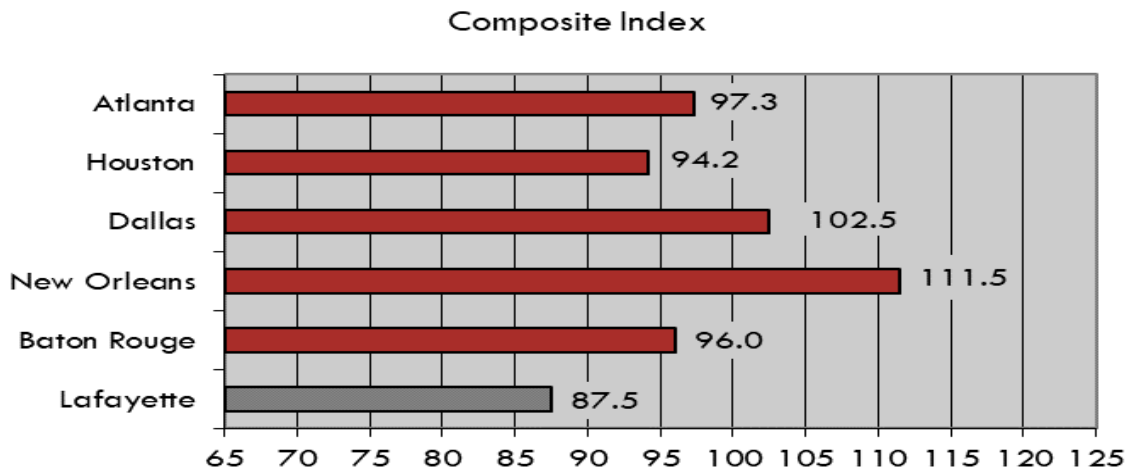
$$100 * [(86.6 - 91.4) / 91.4] = -5.25\%$$

Your after-taxes income could decrease by 5.25% and still maintain your present lifestyle. Keep in mind, this index does not take taxes into account.

The following graphs will show how Lafayette's cost of living compares to other cities in the South.

Composite Index

The composite index indicates the average cost of living for each urban area. It is based on the following six components—Grocery Items, Housing, Utilities, Transportation, Health Care and Miscellaneous Goods & Services.





Education
Elementary and Secondary

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Number of Schools	24	10	11
Enrollment	15,707	5777	10393
Student/ Teacher Ratio	17.2	17.7	20.8
Charter Schools (total)	4		

Source: LPSS and Louisiana Department of Education

- Lafayette Parish School System (www.lpssonline.com) offers Magnet Academies at the Elementary, Middle and High School levels. Some programs of study include business and finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, engineering, design, world languages, arts, STEM, environmental science, and health care. (www.lafayettechoice.com)
- The district is also home to Montessori preschools and elementary schools and immersion programs where core subjects are taught in French, Spanish and Chinese.
- There are also 16 private and parochial schools in Lafayette Parish to complement the public system including a single-gender option for both boys and girls.

Post Secondary

- **University of Louisiana at Lafayette** (www.louisiana.edu), the second-largest university in the state, boasts more than 13,000 students, 10 colleges and schools, and world-recognized areas of excellence including Louisiana and Deep South Studies, Computing and Telecommunications, Cultural and Eco-Tourism, Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity, Health Informatics, and Cognitive Science
- Other unique features of UL Lafayette include a 600-acre renewable resources laboratory, a 48-acre primate research center, and the University Research Park housing a NASA Regional Application Center, a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Wetlands Research Center, the Lafayette Economic Development Authority and the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE), among others.
- **South Louisiana Community College** (www.solacc.edu) is one of the fastest growing colleges in Louisiana serving more than 15,000 students on nine campuses in Acadiana. Academic offerings include technical diplomas, workforce training, high school dual enrollment and two-year degree programs that transfer to four-year universities.

WORKING



Wages

Lafayette has competitive wages in a variety of occupational fields and a cost of living lower than the National average making it an affordable place to call home.

Cost of Labor- Annual Median Wage					
Occupation	Lafayette	Houston	Atlanta	Jackson	San Antonio
Accountant	\$63,000	\$80,730	\$78,580	\$60,400	\$76,940
Architect/Engineer	\$72,610	\$93,090	\$80,830	\$76,010	\$78,160
Education/Library	\$48,170	\$62,150	\$59,850	\$47,250	\$58,850
Registered Nurse	\$71,250	\$82,340	\$82,850	\$64,200	\$79,020
Sales Representative	\$59,030	\$62,110	\$57,460	\$45,090	\$50,680
Software Developer	\$86,150	\$117,800	\$124,130	\$81,070	\$111,410
Office Manager	\$48,200	\$60,690	\$61,520	\$49,700	\$59,610
Carpenter	\$45,080	\$46,820	\$49,360	\$38,970	\$44,590
Construction Labor	\$34,410	\$36,630	\$37,380	\$32,090	\$36,260
Welder	\$50,910	\$51,460	\$44,450	\$42,310	\$46,270

Source: BLS Occupational Employment Statistics (Updated February 2024)

Commute Times

When compared to other Southern metropolitan areas, Lafayette has relatively low commute times. Workers on average spend just over 20 minutes in their cars traveling to work.

Employment & Education Resources

Acadiana Workforce Solutions—www.acadianaworkforce.org

- Employment office funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Houses the largest state database of qualified job seekers; Job listings that cannot be filled locally are fed into the statewide database.
- Employers' job listings are listed on Louisiana Workforce Commission website, www.laworks.net.

WORKING



Major Industries in Lafayette Parish

Lafayette Parish serves as a diverse business base for prominent leaders in many industries.

Construction: New concepts in residential development, combined with improvements made by local government, the University, and private business has propelled the construction industry forward in commercial activity. In 2023, construction activity reached more than \$406 million.

Retail Trade/Leisure & Hospitality/Entertainment: More than 20% of retail spending in Lafayette Parish is made by shoppers who live outside of the Parish's borders. People from across the Acadiana region travel here for shopping, entertainment, recreation, dining, professional services and business. The population in Lafayette's trade market is more than 600,000 people; and more than one million tourists visit this area every year.

Finance: The financial industry within the Lafayette market is comprised of 39 locally-owned and nationally-operated banking institutions, with an estimated \$14.6 billion in deposits as of June 2023. They provide services ranging from simple savings and checking accounts to complex commercial investments. There are eleven active credit unions within the Parish, with estimated total assets more than \$528 million in December 2023.

Manufacturing: The innovation of local manufacturers has resulted in the transformation of traditionally low-technology industries into modern high-tech environments through state-of-the-art computers, intelligent manufacturing systems, robotics, and automation. Thriving manufacturing businesses in Lafayette can be found across sectors including jewelry, oil and gas, marine, food production, and specialty metals.

Medical/Healthcare: At the heart of Lafayette's medical industry, is cutting edge communication and data transfer thanks to the area's high speed fiber optic network. Lafayette MSA's evolving medical workforce of more than 34,000 employees continues to expand with growing facilities. As the "Hub City" of the region, Lafayette is further cementing its role as a regional health center—attracting specialized treatment centers, and along with them preeminent physicians, researchers and scientists.

Oil & Gas: With hundreds oil-and-gas-related businesses in Lafayette, the region is *the* hub for energy production and services in the southeastern U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico. Our community provides an industry-savvy environment and a workforce that is highly skilled, making Lafayette very attractive—not only to energy companies, but to companies across industries.

Technology: Lafayette has worked hard to create a business climate attractive to technology-intensive industries with technology infrastructure, skilled workers, research institutions, and economic development incentives. Within two years, four companies announced the creation of more than 1,100 technology jobs in Lafayette, cementing the region's reputation as a technology hub in the South.

Transportation/Distribution: Located at the crossroads of Interstates 10 and 49, Lafayette's strategic location has contributed to the viability of the transportation/distribution industry. Cargo can be delivered via the Intracoastal Waterway; and the proximity of Lafayette to the Gulf of Mexico makes deliveries and exports by sea feasible.

WORKING



Top Employers in Lafayette Parish

Lafayette Parish is the economic center of the nine-parish area known as Acadiana. Lafayette businesses are able to take advantage of a larger market of consumers as well as the number of qualified workers available for employment. Listed below are the top employing companies within Lafayette Parish as reported by management or personnel directors within each organization.

Questions about having a business added to this list should be directed to LEDA's Business Intelligence Department at (337) 593-1400.

RANK	COMPANY NAME	INDUSTRY	2023-2024 EMPLOYMENT
1	OCHSNER LAFAYETTE GENERAL	Healthcare	4768
2	LAFAYETTE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM	Education	4198
3	OUR LADY OF LOURDES REGL MED	Healthcare	3004
4	UNIVERSITY-LA LAFAYETTE	Educaiton	2516
5	LAFAYETTE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT	Public Administration	2201
6	STULLER INC	Manufacturing	1533
7	AMAZON	Transportation	1300
8	WALMART COMPANIES	Retail Trade	1200
9	LAFAYETTE PARISH GVT	Public Administration	824
10	LHC GROUP	Healthcare	779
11	CGI	Information Technology	725
12	ACADIAN COMPANIES	Healthcare/Transportation	693
13	MCDONALDS OF ACADIANA	Retail Trade	674
14	EXPRO AMERICA'S	Energy	614
15	OFFSHORE ENERGY SERVICES, INC	Energy	550
16	SAFESOURCE	Manufacturing	522
17	TARGET	Retail Trade	521
18	SCHLUMBERGER	Energy	500
19	ROUSES	Grocery Store	500
20	LAFAYETTE UTILITY SYSTEMS	Utility Provider	491
21	UNITED VISION LOGISTICS	Transportation	468
22	ALBERTSONS	Grocery Store	405
23	GUERNSEY SONIC	Retail Trade	395
24	LOWES HOME IMPROVEMENT	Retail Trade	374
25	PHI, INC	Transportation	373

WORKING



RANK	COMPANY NAME	INDUSTRY	2023-2024 EMPLOYMENT
26	LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPT	Public Administration	361
27	MISTRAS	Engineering Services	352
28	WHC ENERGY SVC	Energy	350
29	SUPERIOR ENERGY SVC	Energy	348
30	LEADING HEALTHCARE OF LOUISIANA	Healthcare	325
31	AT&T CALL CENTER	Telecommunications	308
32	SCP HEALTH	Healthcare	304
33	VIEMED	Healthcare	290
34	BIS SALAMIS	Energy	281
35	OMNI	Energy	280
36	AMG SPECIALTY HOSPITAL	Healthcare	274
36	HOME DEPOT	Retail Trade	274
38	SLEMCO	Utility Provider	262
39	HALLIBURTON	Energy	262
39	WALGREENS	Retail Trade	257
39	OCEANEERING SURVEY SVC	Engineering Services	256
42	LAFAYETTE PARISH CORRECTIONAL	Public Administration	250
43	FUGRO	Engineering Services	246
44	MONCLA	Energy	240
45	GOLFBALLS.COM	Retail Trade	235
45	BORDEN DAIRY CO OF LOUISIANA	Retail Trade	223
47	LARC SVC	Healthcare	220
47	HOME BANK	Finance	220
49	LAFAYETTE SURGICAL SPEC HOSP	Healthcare	218
50	LAFAYETTE COCA-COLA BOTTLING	Retail Trade	217

LEDA works with businesses that run the gamut from single-employee startups to headquarter operations with hundreds of employees. We recognize that each of our clients, no matter how big or small, has contributed to Lafayette's economic success. In Lafayette Parish 97% of businesses have fewer than 50 employees. These businesses make a strong economic impact as they offer numerous employment opportunities and drive growth in personal income, consumer expenditures, and overall development in the region.

PLAYING



The National Bureau of Economic Research named Lafayette, LA the happiest city in the U.S.— and that’s no surprise! Lafayette is a city well-acquainted with happiness as we celebrate with a *joie de vie* in both work and play. From Festival International de Louisiane (the largest free, outdoor Francophone event in the U.S.) to Bach Lunch, Downtown Alive!, ArtWalk and Rhythms on the River, free community events are offered year-round to satisfy culture lovers. *Rand McNally* and *USA Today* named Lafayette the Best City for Food in the U.S. and *Southern Living* crowned Lafayette the Tastiest City in the South. With all the food, music, entertainment and art you can imagine, you’ll quickly find yourself immersed in Cajun and Creole culture. You’ll be ready to *laissez les bons temps rouler* in no time! Visit www.lafayettetravel.com to find other opportunities to explore what makes Lafayette’s quality of life so rich and unique.

Acadiana Culture

The unique cultural experience found in Lafayette and the surrounding area of Acadiana is unmatched by any other community. Our long-standing commitment to our rich heritage has created many bonds to the past that can be enjoyed by visitors and residents alike.

- **Acadian Village:** Museum of authentic Acadian homes. (www.acadianvillage.org)
- **Jean Lafitte National Park Acadian Cultural Center:** Offers exhibits on topics such as the 1755 expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia. (www.nps.gov/jela)
- **St. John Cathedral, Museum, Oak & Cemetery:** Built in 1918, the cathedral is of Dutch Romanesque architecture. The nearby oak tree is said to be 500 years old! (www.saintjohncathedral.org)
- **University of Louisiana at Lafayette:** The University has been a major part of Lafayette’s culture for more than 100 years. Visit the campus and take a walk around Cypress Lake. (www.louisiana.edu)
- **Vermilionville:** A living history museum including authentic buildings, demonstrations, music and more. (www.vermilionville.org)
- **Council for Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL):** This organization is dedicated to preserving the Acadiana language and culture. (www.codofil.org)

Art in Acadiana

- **Acadiana Center for the Arts:** AcA serves the region in all aspects of cultural work through community development and grant making, arts education, outreach and residencies, public art corridors, annual visual arts exhibits, monthly ArtWalk, and 150+ annual events at AcA featuring every genre of the performing arts. (www.acadianacenterforthearts.org)
- **Cité Des Arts:** Multi-use cultural arts facility, including a 100-seat theatre, several gallery spaces and an arts café. (www.citedesarts.org)
- **Heymann Performing Arts Center:** Entertainment facility that hosts touring Broadway musicals, national ballet performances, Acadiana’s own symphony orchestra, and other locally produced shows. (www.heymanncenter.com)
- **Lafayette Art Association:** The Lafayette Art Association & Gallery is a non-profit organization dedicated to visual arts education. The association provides a place for artists to gather, learn and grow. (www.lafayetteart.org)
- **The Hilliard Art Museum:** Serves the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and enriches the lives of Louisiana residents by fostering an understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. (www.hilliardmuseum.org)
- Small art galleries are located throughout the downtown district, the Oil Center, and across the city.

PLAYING



Museums and Libraries

- **Lafayette Science Museum:** More than 10,000 sq. ft. of exhibitions, a state-of-the-art planetarium and a discovery room. Activities include hands-on science, workshops, films, shows and other programs for children, families and adults. (www.lafayettesciencemuseum.org)
- **Children’s Museum of Acadiana:** This museum for children ages 2-12 is dedicated to demystifying everyday life, cultures, and human differences through hands-on exhibits including a mini grocery store and a television station and provides programs to promote health awareness and recycling. (www.childrensmuseumofacadiana.com)
- **Alexandre Mouton House/Lafayette Museum:** Repository of Lafayette’s history and culture. Once home to Vermilionville’s founder Jean Mouton and Louisiana Governor Alexandre Mouton. (www.lafayettemuseum.com)
- **Lafayette Public Library System:** Nine locations and a bookmobile provide books, movies, programs, computers and makerspace technologies for all ages throughout the city and parish. (www.lafayettepubiclibrary.org)

Recreation

- You will find easy access to golfing, fishing, hunting, water-skiing, boating, off-road motorcycling, and camping throughout the parish and beyond.
- The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department operates parks and recreation centers which offer tennis courts, soccer fields, disk golf, hiking & biking trails, swimming pools, and active sports leagues for all ages. (www.lafayettela.gov/parksandrecreation)
- Lafayette has three private, one semi-private and three public golf courses.
- Sports complexes are located in Broussard, Carencro and Youngsville.
- Moncus Park at the Horse Farm is a 100-acre park located in central Lafayette. The park opened to the public in January 2022. The master plan includes an amphitheatre, a kayaking lake, a treehouse, a dog park and more. The park is home to a weekly farmers and artisans market and other community events. (www.moncuspark.org)

Leisure

- There are three bowling alleys, a roller-skating facility, an indoor ice-skating facility, indoor rock climbing, two indoor trampoline facilities, several health clubs, and three first-run movie theaters all featuring stadium-style seating.
- **Ragin’ Cajun Athletics:** University of Louisiana at Lafayette sports consist of Baseball, Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Women’s Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, and a series of intramural and club sports that supply entertainment throughout the entire year. (www.ragincajuns.com)
- **Shopping:** Lafayette serves as a safe and convenient market for shopping and retail activities. With the intimacy of a small town and the sophistication of a big city, retailers— both national and local— have invested in this community offering a variety of products and services to area residents.
- **Cajundome:** This 13,000-seat arena is home to the UL Lafayette Ragin’ Cajun Basketball team and it hosts 140 events and 8-10 large concerts each year. (www.cajundome.com)
- **Convention Center:** 100,000 square feet of exhibition space, meeting and banquet facilities suitable for concerts, RV, boat, and sports shows, craft fairs, conventions, and trade shows. (www.cajundome.com)
- **Zoosiana:** 45 acres of jungle brush housing roughly 425 animals. (www.zoosiana.org)

PLAYING



Festivals and Music

- **Louisiana Crossroads:** An intimate concert series hosted by AcA. (www.acadianacenterforthearts.org)
- **Downtown Alive!:** Every Friday night during the spring and fall series, the streets of downtown Lafayette turn into a big dance floor for this musician showcase. (www.lafayettetdowntown.org)
- **Bach Lunch:** A lunchtime concert series in downtown Lafayette featuring different musicians weekly in the spring and fall. Area restaurants provide box lunches for purchase while you enjoy the music selections.
- **Rhythms on the River:** A free, family-friendly outdoor concert series held in River Ranch Town Square. (www.riverranchdevelopment.com)
- **Mecredi Show:** A free outdoor concert series presented by the City of Carencro during the fall and spring. (www.pelicanpark.net/concerts)
- **Acadiana Symphony:** One of the fastest growing and most successful regional orchestras in the nation. (www.acadianasympphony.org)
- **Festival International de Louisiane:** A premiere international music and arts festival known for bringing a variety of unique and emerging performers to Louisiana. (www.festivalinternational.com)
- **Festivals Acadiens et Créoles:** A weekend bash in October that features some of the finest Cajun, Creole and Zydeco musicians. (www.festivalsacadiens.com)
- **Mardi Gras:** A family oriented festival, filled with parades, music, games, carnival rides and food that occurs each Spring. (www.mardigraslafayette.net)
- **Other area festivals:** Crawfish, Frog, Zydeco, Pepper, Sugar Cane Festival, Food & Wine Festival, and more!

Hotels, Motels, Bed & Breakfasts

- With a variety of accommodations, Lafayette is a great place for visiting families and friends as well as tourists from around the globe.
- 88 hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts with more than 6,600 rooms in Lafayette MSA.
- The Lafayette Convention and Visitor Commission can provide a full list of hotel properties. (www.lafayettetravel.com)

Media

- Lafayette Parish is served by two daily newspapers—*The Daily Advertiser* and *The Acadiana Advocate*.
- There are five local television stations, 21 local FM radio stations and nine local AM stations.